

DRAFT
Meeting Summary
Worker's Compensation Advisory Committee - Subcommittee on Health Care
May 13, 2009

Participants:

Labor: Karen Gude, Owen Linch, Ed Wood, (John Aslakson-absent)
Business: Beverly Simmons, Carolyn Logue, Christina Lombardi, (Tammie Hetrick-absent)
BIIA: Tom Egan
L&I: Gary Walker, Bob Mootz (Gary Franklin-absent)
Facilitator: Dave Overby
Presenting: Diana Drylie – L&I, Deb Fulton Kehoe - UW

Resources and Guests:

Terri Smith-Weller – UW; Karen Nilson, Ellen Hull, Grace Casey - Renton COHE; Dan Hansen - Ea. WA COHE (telephone); Jordan Firestone, Amy King, Xiaoxue Huang – Harborview; Lee Glass, Susan Campbell, Karen Ahrens – L&I; Sallie Rueter –Ind Rehab Assoc. of WA; Clif Finch – ACLWA (telephone)

Introduction and Review of Minutes:

Dave Overby welcomed the group and opened the meeting. Minutes from Dec. 8, 2008 were approved. Correction noted to agenda: Deb Fulton Kehoe's name was spelled wrong. Subcommittee extended thank you to Roy Plaeger-Brockway for his work on this subcommittee and the OHS/COHE project.

Significant updates:

Diana Drylie presented slides on the recent legislative session, internal COHE work groups at L&I, and the contracting process for the 2009-2011 biennium. Internal work groups at L&I are discussing COHE financing mechanisms, accreditation processes and minimum standards. Contracts with the four current COHEs will continue through 2009-2011 with no significant monetary changes except the previously approved cost of living adjustments (COLA) for the Renton and Eastern Washington COHEs.

Discussion – legislative session:

- The group discussed Senate bill 5949 and the request for additional funding for the Eastern Washington COHE.
- Diana reviewed the process that L&I used to respond to these two issues.
 - The bill did not receive a hearing in committee.
 - The funding was not included in L&I's budget.
- A member of this subcommittee met with the originator of this bill before the bill was dropped and requested that they not go outside the collaborative process. The bill was subsequently dropped.
- After the bill was dropped, subcommittee members and representatives of the E WA COHE Business and Labor Advisory Board met with the originator of the bill to discuss his circumvention of the collaborative process.

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- It was noted that this bill is still alive for the next session.
- Members of the E WA COHE Business and Labor Advisory Board better understand the process to request additional funding for COHEs. They also noted that they did not prevent the E WA COHE from recruiting beyond their contract targets.

Discussion - Internal COHE work groups:

- There was discussion of the internal work groups and L&I's intention to provide clear formula for financing of COHEs, including future COHEs. Details still to be determined include:
 - Creating a mechanism for paying administrative costs to the COHEs.
 - Developing a clear, consistent formula for providing financial support of COHE administrative expenses regardless of size, location, COHE type, etc.
 - This could be done using multipliers to account for differences in # of providers or claims, geographic location, travel costs, performance by the COHE or APPs, etc.
- Standards for COHEs will likely be based on an accreditation model. Details to be determined include:
 - Specific minimum standards for all COHEs to ensure consistency regardless of size.
 - COHEs will be required to meet minimum standards both to become and continue as a COHE.
 - Standards will likely be developed for Health Services Coordination (HSC) services as well as overall COHE services. HSC standards could include requiring intervention on a minimum percent of claims, and/or setting a minimum rate of HSC FTEs to number of providers or claims.
- A subcommittee member offered the suggestion that COHEs who do not meet the standards should not receive payment for services. Diana clarified that the standards would be minimum requirements and if a COHE did not meet the standards they could lose their COHE status.
- Another subcommittee member noted that each COHE will be different and standards must work for all of them. L&I must consider development of COHEs from beginning to end and include quality measures.
 - The COHE directors have all requested that quality measures be included in future standards and linked to payment for COHE administrative payments.
- A subcommittee member asked if financial incentives for COHE providers would continue to be part of the COHE model.
 - Diana answered that we may need to consider additional COHE incentives for providers as current incentives move into the system as a whole.

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Expansion County Report:

Deb Fulton Kehoe presented slides on the latest UW deliverable. See attached slides and report.

Questions:

- One subcommittee member asked why the COHE providers in primary care did slightly better than other providers. Deb said this could not be determined from the data.
- One subcommittee member asked whether expansion was detrimental to the COHE effect. Bob Mootz answered that we do not know from the data but it is possible that the reduction in HSC activity, compared to the original evaluation timeframe, is a possible cause for the results.
- A subcommittee member asked if high and low adopters are found in specific geographic areas. Deb responded that the UW has not looked at this before but she thinks this can be determined using the data.

Lessons Learned

The expansion county results provide guidance to help us focus quality improvement in the Eastern Washington COHE for the next two years and provide data to help determine minimum standards for COHEs in the future.

- HSC Services clarified (e.g. minimum staffing levels and # or % of claims)
- QI focus--increase provider use of best practices
- COHE standards and regular accreditation and re-accreditation based on performance measures
- A subcommittee member mentioned that one COHE QI focus has always been on work place safety and prevention and that this focus should not be under-stated in future standards.
 - COHE staff shared stories about how the COHE intervention has helped identify the need for and incorporate safety measures into worksites.

Draft agenda and content for June 1st WCAC meeting

- Subcommittee reviewed the WCAC agenda.
- The goal for the WCAC meeting on June 1 is to get agreement that the COHE model should become a way of doing business and that the WCAC-HC continue to work with L&I on the implementation details for making that happen.
- Subcommittee requested to preview slides for this meeting
 - Diana Drylie will send her draft slides when they are ready.
 - Tom Wickizer and Gary Franklin's slides may not be ready ahead of time.
- Subcommittee members mentioned that both duplication of services and specifics on COHE financing will likely be the main issues at this meeting.
- Another subcommittee member observed that L&I has done a good job to make sure these other projects did not interfere with COHE.
- A number of subcommittee members advised that L&I present stories regarding COHE successes to the WCAC.
 - Stories will emphasize the impact of COHE and the positive COHE results.
 - Stories could be the same or similar to those safety and prevention stories discussed earlier in this meeting.

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Subcommittee members presented a position paper developed by the E WA COHE Business and Labor Advisory Board.

- Subcommittee members agreed that the paper is a good resource to help develop implementation details for COHEs in the future.
- The E WA COHE Business and Labor Advisory Board would like a formal mechanism for communication with the WCAC-HC.
 - There was support for creating a standing item on WCAC-HC agendas.
 - Clarification was added that items from the COHE business and labor advisory boards should be brought after the board formally votes to elevate the item to the WCAC-HC.
 - The Renton COHE Business and Labor Advisory Board elected not to create a similar position paper.

Next steps-Discussion

- June 1st meeting – calendar notice will be sent to all subcommittee members and COHE directors.
- WCAC-HC meetings – future meeting dates are yet to be determined.